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FILED APR 24 2015 N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

By: DAG Susan Carboni Tel. (973)648-2894

> STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION :

Administrative Action

OR RECOVATION OF THE LICENSEE OF :

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

AHUVA FIRST, R.N. LICENSE # NR 13266100

OF LICENSE

TO PRACTICE AS A REGISTERED

NURSE (R.N.) IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information indicating the following:

- Respondent, Ahuva First, is the holder of License No. NR13266100 and is a registered nurse in the State of New Jersey.
- Respondent entered into a private letter agreement with the Board which she signed on or about August 13, 2014. (Exhibit A) The agreement required respondent to enroll in the Recovery and Monitoring Program of New Jersey (RAMP), undergo evaluation and monitoring, agree to follow recommendations by

RAMP for further treatment, and to refrain from the use of any and all potentially addictive substances. (Exhibit A, $\P \P 2$, 6, and 10) The agreement was to have the force and effect of a Board Order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4. In the event that the Board received reliable information that respondent had acted in violation of the RAMP contract and/or the agreement, the agreement was no longer to remain confidential.

3. In a communication dated February 18, 2015, Suzanne Alunni-Kinkle, Director of RAMP, advised the Board that respondent was noncompliant with RAMP monitoring requirements, in that she ceased telephoning in daily to check in on February 8, 2015. Director Kinkle indicated respondent had missed calling in a total of 35 times since enrolling in RAMP in August of 2014, and that she had not responded to attempts by RAMP to contact her.

(Exhibit B)

4. On or about March 23, 2015, a letter issued by overnight and regular mail to respondent at her address of record, advising respondent that the Board had received credible information indicating that she was not in compliance with the private letter agreement, and advising her to forward within five days any proof that she was currently in compliance with RAMP. (Exhibit C)

- 5. The overnight mailing was delivered on March 24, 2015. (Exhibit C) No response has been received to date.
- 6. A certification from RAMP's director dated April 23, 2015 indicates that Ms. First ceased participation in RAMP on February 8, 2015, and there has been no attempt on Ms. First's part to resume participation in RAMP since that date, despite attempts by RAMP to contact her.

(Exhibit D)

- 7. The private letter agreement signed by respondent, which by its terms has the force and effect of a Board order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4, provided for automatic suspension of respondent's nursing license upon receipt of reliable information indicating that respondent has violated any term of the private letter agreement. (Exhibit A,
- 8. Respondent's cessation of participation in RAMP constitutes a violation of the terms of the private letter agreement, and consequently a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4, subjecting respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

Accordingly,

IT IS on this $24^{1/4}$ day of Apri, 2015

HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of New Jersey shall be and hereby is suspended for her violation of the private letter agreement, which is deemed a violation of a Board order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4 and N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).
- 2. Respondent may, under the terms of the private letter agreement, upon notice, request a hearing on the sole issue of whether respondent has failed to comply with the terms of the private letter agreement.
- 3. In the event that respondent seeks reinstatement of her New Jersey nursing license at any future time, the Board shall not entertain any application for reinstatement without respondent's demonstrating that she in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the private letter agreement and with any agreement with RAMP, and is fit and competent to practice nursing.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:

Patricia Ann Murphy, I

Board President

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